ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

Held with the

BELLVILLE CHURCH,

Conecuh County, Alabama,

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 25, 1875

MEMPHIS, TENN.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY PRINT, 361 MAIN ST.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, MEMPHIS, TENN.

MINUTES.

BELLVILLE CHURCH,
CONECUH COUNTY, ALA., Sept. 25, 1875.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment with the Bellville church. The annual sermon was preached by Elder L. W. Duke from third chapter of Philippians, 8th verse: "Yea doubtless and I count all things but lost, &c."

After a recess of an hour the delegates assembled in the church, and the Moderator Elder A. Jay, being absent, on motion of Elder W. G. Curry, Bro. A. J. Robinson was called to the chair as Moderator, for perfecting the organization of the Association, and after singing, and prayer by Elder J. L. Eddins, the Moderator announced the Association ready for business.

The Moderator appointed Elder W. G. Curry, L. W. Duke, and Y. M. Rabb, to read the letters. The letters were read, contents noticed, (see tabular statement), and the names of delegates enrolled, to-wit:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Little River—A. J. Lambert, D. H. Boyles, A. F. Lambert.
Claiborne—John Thames, J. M. Thompson.
Salem—A. King, H. Newberry.
Zion—John McWilliams, L. W. Duke.
Monroeville—D. Hestle, T. J. Emmons, J. DeLoach.
Philadelphia—W. G. Curry, W. B. Kemp.
Pleasant Ridge—C. W. Smith, E. Andress.
Mars Hill—James Boon, John Ficklen.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethany—A. G. Duke, S. Brantly, J. M. McNeill.
Bellville—E. Cline, H. M. Andress, T. Ballard.
Arkadelphia—James Norrid, G. Hines, W. Norrid.
Pilgrims Rest—J. B. Colley, B. F. Colley.
Olive Branch—J. T. Griffin, J. B. Griffin, C. N. Diamond.
Cedar Creek—J. M. Wood, M. C. Kirkland, Isaiah Partin.
Point Pleasant—Jacob Smith, Robert Steel.
Ramah—J. H. Rains, B. Bradberry, J. B. Evans.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Evergreen—J. W. Locke, Y. M. Rabb, T. B. Long.
New Hope—Joseph Marten, S. W. Cooke.
Union—L. Garner, J. W. Page, J. D. Dickens.
Brushy Creek—J. M. Fortune.
Brooklyn—A. J. Robinson, G. R. Boulware, A. T. Thames.
Georgiana—J. M. Sims, E. C. Milner, J. A. Shepard.
Sepulga—Charles Hyde, S. H. Smith.
Old Town—I. Spence, W. R. Watson, J. A. Murphy.
Mt. Carmel—J. W. Darby, James Bennett, N. B. Lynn.
Antioch—J. M. Swieny, B. Hale, G. E. Mize.
Beulah—A. Jay, J. M. Travis, W. W. Boykin.
Bethel—Hillery Beesley, A. H. Chappell.

On motion, Elder J. M. Fortune, delegate from Brushy Creek, be received without letter and that he furnish the Clerk with the statistics of the church.

On motion, Charles Hyde and S. H. Smith, the delegates from Sepulga church being present without letter, be received.

Proceeded to the election of officers for perfecting organization, which resulted in the election of Elder W. G. Curry, Moderator; John DeLoach, Clerk; A. J. Robinson, Treasurer.

On motion, Bro. B. F. Colley from Pilgrims Rest church be received as a delegate in the absence of the regularly appointed delegates.

The Moderator appointed committee on preaching, to-wit: Elder John McWilliams, D. Hestle, Y. M. Rabb and the deacons of the Bellville church, and to report at the pleasure of the Association.

On motion of Elder L. W. Duke the regular order of business was suspended, and that a committee be raised to report at this session on the "Centennial" movement, the committee appointed, viz: L. W. Duke, A. J. Robinson, Y. M. Rabb, E. C. Milner, J. B. Colley.

Letters and messengers from corresponding bodies were called for.

Received from the Elim Association her messengers M. V. Hare, and R. W. Brooks, and package of minutes, and invited them to seats with us.

Received from Zion Association her messenger J. F. Jones, and invited him to a seat with us.

Received from the Pine Barren Association her messengers and invited them to seats with us, to-wit: Elder B. H. Crumpton, I. L. Eddins, John Higton, J. R. Hawthorne, T. J. Hawthorne.

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb that a committee be appointed, on the subject of correpondence with the Colored Bethlehem Association, to-wit: Y. M. Rabb, J. W. Locke, J. M. Fortune.

The Moderator's announcement of standing committees, as follows:

On State of Religion—Elder J. M. Fortune, J. W. Darby. E. Cline, J. M. Thompson, W. B. Kemp.

On Querries and Requests—Elder J. M, Travis, J. M. McNeill, T. B. Long, B. Bradberry, T. Ballard,

On Correspondence—E. C. Milner, James Norrid, T. J. Emmons.

On Periodicals and Publications—A. J. Robinson, W. B. Kemp, L. W. Duke, E. Cline, J. H. Rains.

On Finance—J. W. Locke, J. B. Colley, M. C. Kirkland.

On motion of Bro. A. J. Robinson that the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. Monday be set for the committee "on Centennial" to make their report, and that its consideration be the special order of business for that hour.

Bro. Y. M. Rabb gave notice that a motion will be made asking for a committee of five, to be appointed by this body, to revise the constitution, rules of order and order of business for this body, and to report the same at the next session of this body.

The committee on Preaching reported as follows: On Sabbath, in the church, at 11 o'clock A. M., Elder B. H. Crumpton; and after recess, Elder I. L. Eddins.

On motion adjourned to Monday morning, half past eight o'clock. Singing and prayer by Elder B. H. Crumpton.

On Sabbath, the ministers preached in the order of their appointments, to a large attentive audience, and after the morning services a collection was taken up for Associational purposes, amounting to $——

MONDAY MORNING, September 27, 1875.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Elder J. M. Fortune.

The minutes of Saturday were read, corrected and approved.

Elder L. W. Duke of the committee to obtain subscriptions to the Alabama Baptist, made his report; which, on motion, was received and committee discharged.

Bro. J. W. Locke, Chairman of committee on Sabbath Schools, made his report; which, on motion, was adopted and committee discharged. (See appendix A.)

Elder L. W. Duke, Chairman of the special committee on "Centennial," made his report; which, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix B.)

Bro. Y. M. Rabb, Chairman of the special committee on correspondence with the colored Bethlehem Association, made his report; which, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix C.)

Elder J. M. Fortune, Chairman of the committee on State of Religion, made his report; and, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix D.)

The Moderator appointed the committee as indicated in the report of the committee "on Centennial, viz: In the first district T. S. Wiggins; second district, James Straughn; third district, A. J. Robinson.

On motion the letter from the Pensacola church was read. Statistics noted and referred to the committee on Domestic Missions.

Bro. E. C. Milner, Chairman of the committee on Correspondence, made his report; and, on motion, adopted. (See appendix E.)

Elder J. M. Travis, Chairman of the committee on Queries and Requests, made his report; which, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix F.)

On motion of Bro. Y. M. Rabb, that in the absence of a report from the committee on Temperance, an opportunity be given any Brother who wishes to say anything on the subject of Temperance.

Bro. Y. M. Rabb offered the following resolution, which was carried:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this body to revise and amend the constitution, rules of order, and order of business for this body, and to report the same at our next meeting. The committee appointed viz: Y. M. Rabb, J. M. Fortune, L. W. Duke, E. C. Milner, A. J. Robinson.

Bro. A. J. Robinson, Chairman of the committee on Domestic Missions, made his report; which, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix G.)

Bro. A. J. Robinson, Chairman of the committee on Periodicals and Publications, made his report; which, on motion, was adopted. (See appendix H.)

Appointed correspondents, as follows:

To the Elim Association—Y. M. Rabb, J. M. Wood, J. M. Travis, Jacob Smith.

To the Zion Association—A. J. Robinson, J. M. Fortune.

To the Pine Barren Association—W. G. Curry, L. W. Duke, W B. Kemp, John McWilliams.

To the State Convention—L. W. Duke, W. G. Curry, J. M. Fortune, A. J. Robinson, Y. M. Rabb.

On motion of Bro. L. W. Duke a committee of three be appointed, to select a minister to preach the annual sermon at the meeting of this body, to-wit: J. M. Fortune, D. Hestle, J. M. Travis.

Appointment of Standing committees:

On Sabbath Schools—Elder L. W. Duke, T. J. Emmons, J. M. McNeill, E. Cline, T. B. Long.

On Temperance—Y. M. Rabb, J. McWilliams, W. B. Kemp, J. M. Thompson, A. J. Robinson.

On Domestic Missions—E. C. Milner, J. B. Colley, J. M. Wood, J. W. Darby, T. Ballard.

Bro. J. M. Locke, Chairman of the Finance committee, made his report; and, on motion, it was adopted. See appendix (I.)

The Special committee, to whom was referred the nomination and selection of a minister to preach the annual sermon, at the next session of this body, reported that they had selected Elder W. G. Curry, and as alternate Elder A. J. Lambert.

On motion, that the minute fund be paid over to the Clerk, and that the Clerk be allowed twenty dollars for his services, and the balance of the minute fund be appropriated for printing and distributing of the minutes.

Moved and seconded, that the printing of the minutes, the preferance be given the Southern Baptist Publication Society, Memphis, Tennessee. All other things being equal.

On motion, the Finance committee ordered to pay over to the Treasurer the money that has come into their hands.

Bro. A. J. Robinson, Treasurer, made his report; which was received and adopted. (See appendix K.)

Bro. Y. M. Rabb offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the pastors of the churches composing this Association, be requested to call upon their churches and congregations, by public collection, for funds to be sent up to our next Association, for Associational purposes.

Elder L. W. Duke offered the following resolution, which was adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be given to the brethren and citizens of this community for their generous hospitality, during the session of the same. Also to the Methodist brethren for the offer of their house of worship.

On motion, the Treasurer pay over the funds in his hands, sent up to this body for Missions, to the Treasurer of the State Board at Marion, Alabama.

On motion, the Association after a harmonious session, adjourned to meet with the Evergreen church, Conecuh County, Alabama, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September 1876.

W. G. CURRY, *Moderator.*

JOHN DELOACH, *Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

(A.)

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee beg leave to state that they note with pleasure the progressive tendency of the Sabbath School cause in our bounds. While much has been done, the harvest is still white. There are several churches that exist without the advantages derived from this important branch of religious instruction More energy and zeal on the part of the churches is required to secure and gather the entire harvest; the grand object to be attained is, to fully appreciate the true relation existing between the church and the Sabbath School. It has been regarded as the hand-maid of the church as well as the nursery, both of which are near and sacred relations; but still they fall short of expressing the true relations.

In the opinion of your committee the Sabbath School is the church itself at work, and when the churches composing this Association acknowledge this fact, then, and not until then, may we expect the full harvest to be reaped.

We would therefore recommend the practical acknowledgement of this fact, and go to work with that energy and zeal that its importance and responsibilities demand at our hands as christians.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOCKE, *Chairman.*

(B.)

ON CENTENNIAL

Your committee regard with pleasure the enthusiasm that is being every where enkindled among Baptists on this subject. If it be proper to celebrate our Civil Independance, wou'd it not be more proper and befitting in us as a denomination in a grand jubilant celebration, to show our gratitude to our Baptist fathers who poured out their blood to unfetter the human conscience, and trasmit to us the soul liberty that we this day enjoy, "Religious Liberty?" "Says Bancroft, in its most comprehensive sense was from the first a trophy of the Baptist, for this principle they have ever contended, and with this achievement of America Independance they succeeded for the first time in the history of the world in having this principle recognized by a distinct human government." When we consider the success that has attended our efiorts, and the glorious triumphs of our principles in the last hundred years Certainly no class of our people have so much cause to hail and celebrate the coming Centennial as Baptists. We should hail it as the grand occasion to commemorate in some endearing form, our appreciation of the services of our christian ancestors, and that will serve as a perpetual reminder of their glorious achievments throughout all time and among all the objects of our benevolence as a denomination, none appeal to us so strongly as the endowment of Howard College.

We therefore recommend that a committee be appointed, composed of one member from each district of the Association, whose duty it shall be to canvass every church in his district and appoint a committee in each church, composed of three males and three females, whose duty it shall be to collect at least one dollar from every member of the church, which shall be forwarded to the Centennial agent of the Association, or directly to the Central committee at Marion

L. W. DUKE, *Chairman.*

(C.)

ON CORRESPONDENCE WITH &C.

Your Special committee to whom was referred the application of the delegates from the colored Bethlehem Association as correspondent messengers, has had our prayful consideration.

It has been time-honored custom of this Association to encourage and interchange of visiting brethren from other Associations when it has been agreeable and mutual aid and consolation has been the results of this system. Your committee find in this application a relationship varying very essentially from any heretofore contemp ated by this body, is sought. Hence, while we sympathize with these, our brethren, we cannot see that to receive them as correspondent messengers, in the sense and meaning of this body, could result in our mutual good. Neither do we believe that the correspondence sought was intended by them to ask for that privilege but the object intended, as we believed is to get the privilege of sitting in our body as *hearers* and *learners*, that they may be better prepared to transact their Associational business. Believing this fact, we cordially recommend the messengers be received as herein understood.

We recommend that the churches composing this Association to show a willingness to the colored churches in their midst to visit them, and any member of this body is authorized to visit the colored Bethlehem Association, with the view of giving them such assistance as may be desired in transacting their Associational business, as well as aiding them in ho'ding on to the true faith

Respectfully submitted,

Y. M. RABB. *Chairman.*

(D.)

STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee beg leave to report that from the reading of the letters sent from the various churches, it appears that a state of coldness prevails in some of the churches, and some communities are almost destitute of the gospel of Christ. We rejoice, however, to report some of our churches have enjoyed precious revivals since our last meeting and 109 have been added to our members by experience and baptism, and Bro. G. E. Mize has been ordained to the ministry, and Bro. T. J. Langs' credentials as an ordained minister has been restored. We recommend all our brethren to labor zealously to raise higher the standard of gospel principles in our midst.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE, *Chairman.*

(E.)

ON CORRESPONDENCE.

To corresponding Associations: The Bethlehem Association hails with delight her fifty-ninth annual session, and our hearts are made glad by the revivals reported from many parts of our Association, which is all evidence that the word of the Lord shall not return unto him void, but that it is still accomplishing that where he has sent it. We still Hope that this intercommunication may continue, and that the blessings of God may rest upon us. We rejoice to see corresponding messengers from Pine Barren Association, to-wit: Rev. W. B Crumpton, and J. R. Hawthorne; and from Elim Association, Bros. M. V. Hare, and R. W Brooks; and from Zion Association, Bro. J. F. Jones. All of which is

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. MILNER, *Chairman.*

(F.)

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your committee beg leave to report that there has been no queries or requests submitted to them, only the requests of three churches, asking that the next session of this Association be held with them, and your committee recommend that the next meeting of this Association be held with the Evergreen church.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. TRAVIS, *Chairman*

(G.)

ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to report, that in consequence of the depressed financial condition of our people, it would not be prudent to undertake, unaided, to support a Missionary in our bounds. We therefore recommend that whatever unappropriated funds may be on hand be forwarded to the State Mission board, to aid in supporting the four evangelists already in the field. We regret to say that we do not conceive of any plan that would enable us to aid the Pensacola church at present.

A. J. ROBINSON, *Chairmau.*

(H.)

ON PERIODICALS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Your committee beg leave to report the adoption of the following resolution, to-wit:

Resolved, That the Alabama Baptist and Kind Words meets our present demand as a denomination, for religious literature.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. ROBINSON, *Chairman.*

(I.)

FINANCE REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report the following amounts for the objects designated:

CHURCHES.	MINUTE FUND.	CHURCHES.	MINUTE FUND.
Claiborne	$2 60	Evergreen	$2 50
Salem	2 30	New Hope	1 75
Zion	3 50	New Prospect	1 95
Monroeville	5 00	Bushy Creek	1 00
Pleasant Ridge	1 50	Brooklyn	1 35
Philadelphia	3 00	Georgiana	2 50
Mars Hill	50	Sepulga	1 75
Bethany	1 75	Old Town	1 50
Bellville	5 00	Mount Carmel	2 00
Arkadelphia	2 50	Antioch	1 50
Pilgrims Rest	2 00	Beulah	1 00
Olive Branch	1 25	Bethel	60
Cedar Creek	1 10		
Point Pleasant	2 00	Minute Fund	$55 60
Ramah	1 95		
For Missions			15 05
For Bro. Lundey's family			5 95
Sabbath Collections			12 95
Total			$89 55

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. LOCKE, *Chairman*,

(K.)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A J. Robinson, Treasurer, in account with the Bethlehem Association:

Debit.

To amount received from Finance committee	
Minute fund	$55 60
For missions	15 05
" Bro. Lundey's family	5 95
Sabbath collection	12 95
Total	$89 55

Credit.

By amount paid Clerk	55 60
Balance on hand	$33 95

Respectfully submited,

A. J. ROBINSON, *Treasurer.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	P O ST OFFICES	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Baptized	Rec. by letter	Restored	Excluded	Dismissed	Dead	No. of whites	No. of Blacks	Total	S. meetings.
1st District													
Montgomery Hill	Mongomery Hill	Not represented		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little River	Mt. Pleasant	E. Cline	H. C. Staples	...	1	...	1	2	1	40	...	40	3
Claiborne	Claiborne	L. W. Duke	R. A. Lambert	1	2	...	...	...	1	40	16	56	2
Salem	Monroeville	L. W. Duke	H. Newberry	...	2	...	2	...	2	80	10	90	...
Zion	Monroeville	John McWilliams	W. D. McWillams	...	2	...	4	3	...	122	20	142	1
Monroeville	Monroeville	A. J. Lambert	J. DeLoach	1	2	...	1	3	3	90	9	99	2
Philadephia	Monroeville	L W Duke	W. B Kemp	26	2	2	...	6	...	138	...	138	3
Pleasant Hill	Claiborne	Not represented		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mars Hill	Williams Station	J. D Beck	James Boon	...	...	...	...	3	...	62	1	63	...
Pleasant Ridge	Monroeville	E. Cline	Travis Biggs	...	...	...	...	1	...	37	...	37	4
2nd District													
Bethany	Burnt Corn	W. G. Carry	J. P. Watkins	12	6	1	...	...	...	55	...	55	2
Bellville	Bellville	W. G Curry	James Straughn	...	1	...	...	3	...	99	...	99	4
Arkadelphia	Bellville	Ingram Spence	James Norrid	...	...	...	...	...	2	72	2	74	3
Catawba Springs	Pollard	Not represented		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pilgrims Rest	Brewton	C. W. Hare	J. B Colley	1	...	...	...	3	...	49	...	49	1
Pensacola	Pensacola Fla	Letter but no delegate		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breckenridge	Evergreen	Not represented		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Olive Branch	Evergreen	I Spence	J. M Yates	...	1	...	...	...	...	56	...	56	2
Cedar Creek	Jayvilla	J. M. Wood	G W. Kirkland	3	7	...	...	4	...	2	...	32	4
Point Pleasant	Brewton	Jacob Smith	B. W. Howell	2	1	...	8	...	...	28	...	28	...
Ramah	Burnt Corn	J. L. Eddins	J. H. Rains	34	6	3	...	1	...	70	...	70	4
3rd District													
Evergreen	Evergreen	W. G. Curry	T. B. Long	...	3	...	...	2	2	34	...	31	3
New Hope	Jackson Store	John Hegdon	J. R. Cook	...	1	...	...	...	...	45	1	46	3
New Prospect	Georgiana	A. T. Sims	G. R Stamps	12	4	...	...	1	1	102	...	102	4
Union	Garland	J. L Eddins	L. Garner	4	...	1	...	...	...	42	...	42	3
Brushy Creek	Georgiana	Benj. Cooper	G. T. Burk	3	5	...	...	8	1	46	...	46	1
Brooklyn	Brooklyn		J. M. Robinson	...	...	...	...	2	...	65	...	65	3
Georgianna	Georgiana	J. E. Bell		9	4	...	...	10	...	69	...	69	...
Sepulga	Brooklyn	No letter		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Town	Evergreen	A. Jay	J A. Murphy	...	6	...	...	...	...	82	...	82	4
Mt. Carmel	Garland	J. L Eddins	J. J. Howell	...	...	...	8	8	1	66	...	66	1
Antioch	Georgiana	A T. Sims	J. M. Sweney	...	3	1	6	12	...	74	...	74	1
Damascus	Brooklyn	No letter or delegates		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beulah	Jayvilla	A. Jay		...	1	...	...	1	...	36	...	36	1
Bethel	South Butler	G. E. Mize	G A. Riley	1	9	1	...	4	...	48	...	48	4

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